



SEMINOLE COUNTY TRAILS AND GREENWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 24, 2004

Minutes

Members in attendance:

Cindy Gennell
Andrea Holman
Al Stimac
Kenneth Holt
Judy Putz
Wally Hill
Lisa Giltner
Rick Smith
Mike Martin
Roger Cooper
Tim Donihi

Staff in attendance:

Mark Lichtenheld, Engineering
Cindy Matheny, Engineering
Jeff Hayes, Parks & Recreation
Joe Gasparini, Parks & Recreation
Heidi Terry, Engineering
David Gregory, Environmental Services

Guests:

Sue Wright Allen & Guest
Debra Schafer

Mr. Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. and asked the committee members and staff to introduce themselves.

Mr. Stimac made a motion to approve the minutes from May 27, Ms. Gennell seconded the motion and approved unanimously.

Mr. David Gregory attended the meeting to answer questions about the trails use on County Landfill Property. He handed out maps of the landfill area off of S.R. 46 east that explained the different leases active at this time. Aside from hunting

leases there are also leases to the Seminole County Sheriff's Department for a variety of uses. Mr. Gregory explained that the Environmental Services Department has concerns about policing and maintaining a possible trail in that area. Ms. Giltner asked if it were possible to construct an unpaved trail around the boundaries of the landfill area. Mr. Gregory responded that, again, security and maintenance was big issue. Ms. Giltner mentioned that the committee could look into negotiating with the hunt camp lease holder about an easement along the side of the property that could be gated and locked down during hunting season.

Ms. Wright said that riding horses down Osceola Road to gain access to the trailhead was too dangerous. She mentioned that much of the hunt camp property was not used at all. Ms. Giltner asked staff to follow up with the lease owner and investigate the possibility of getting access to part of the hunt camp. At this point Ms. Matheny said that there was no funding for a trail through the hunt camp property and that the projects identified in the referendum have priority. The maintenance of county trails is provided by the Parks and Recreation Department and therefore that department needs to be in the loop on any proposed projects. She mentioned that this idea would not be able to be implemented for at least another 6 to 8 years. Also issues like private property access and private gates needed to be addressed.

Ms. Wright said that her husband had ties to volunteer groups that would be willing to help with implementation.

Mr. Martin mentioned the possibility of forming a private public partnership to speed things up.

Ms. Gennell mentioned that there were also liability issues that needed to be looked at.

Mr. Gregory also said that there will be more landfills on the county property in the future.

Mr. Hill recommended a field trip to the area in question. Ms. Giltner added that the field trip should take place on weekend morning due to the heavy rain and high heat in the afternoon. Ms. Wright said that the committee was welcome to extend the field trip to Cypress Bend.

After establishing that the current lease of the hunt club property was good until 2017 Mr. Gregory added that it was not likely that Seminole County would be willing to buy out the lease before that time. Ms. Matheny added that staff needed BCC approval before even attempting to negotiate with the current lease holders. Mr. Martin said that more research needed to be done on that subject as a whole and that a public private partnership could take care of that.

During the discussion the was mentioned by several citizens and committee members that the current hunt camp leaseholder may be open to shorten the lease and trade the area back to the county for the area he had previously owned. Mr. Donihi asked if there was a way the committee could find out if that was in fact true. Ms. Schafer said that she had been in contact with the current leaseholder and that he was not interested in subleasing "chunks" of the property; however, he was open to the idea of trading the whole property back to

Seminole County. Ms. Schafer added that the need for public land in Seminole County was high. She referred to a design plan for that particular property (attached) that was privately funded some time ago. Mr. Cooper reminded the committee that this issue was possibly being added to the BCC agenda on July 13, 2004. Ms. Gennell said that at this time this issue is beyond the committee. Ms. Holman asked if the field trip to the site in question was going to take place. Ms. Matheny said that staff would have to coordinate with the Environmental Services Department and the Engineering Division. Ms. Giltner added that the field trip should take place before the July 13th BCC meeting. Mr. Cooper instructed committee members to coordinate with Ms. Matheny or Mr. Lichtenheld. Ms. Matheny said she would try to coordinate the field trip and report back to the committee before the July 13th BCC meeting.

Break (10 minutes)

Related Reports

- Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

No report

- Natural Lands

Mr. Lichtenheld reported that the School Board had completed the construction on the new Environmental Center at Osprey Trail. Staff will pass along information on the grand opening in August as it becomes available.

- Florida National Scenic Trail

Mr. Hill reported that the re-route on the FNST was completed on old S.R. 13 going east and south near the bike trail, across Snow Hill Road to the east. He also reported that the Florida Trail Association and Florida National Scenic Trail staff are trying to purchase a 200 feet wide piece along that route.

- Bike Issues

Mr. Donihi reported that he was informed at the last BPAC meeting (Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee-Metroplan Orlando) that Orange County had shown no intentions of acquiring the railroad corridor right-of-way to connect the West Orange Trail with the in Orange County with Seminole County's Seminole Wekiva Trail. He asked Ms. Matheny to call Bill Thomas of Orange County Parks & Recreation and get more info.

Mr. Donihi also reported that the "Seminole Trails Friends" group, a non-profit group he had been organizing is coming along nicely. He reported that the group now had a mission statement, an attorney to handle liability issues, etc.

- Development Review Committee

No report

- Coordination/Planning

Ms. Matheny reported that Seminole County, in coordination with the City of Sanford, is planning to request grant funding to acquire an old railroad corridor from Goldsboro Elementary School to downtown Sanford. From there it will possibly connect to the Sanford Riverwalk. Ms. Matheny explained that the funding for this trail will partially come from a Grant from the Office of Greenways and Trails in Tallahassee. In order for a project to qualify for this particular grant the entity applying must show how the trail will benefit the community. Ms. Matheny will update the committee on the status of the grant application at the August meeting.

- Office of Greenways and Trails/Fl. Department of Transportation

Mr. Lichtenheld reported that construction of the new Flagler Trail Bridge over the Econlockhatchee River was delayed because of some permitting issues.

- Design and Construction

The South Phase of the Cross Seminole Trail was awarded and construction will begin this year.

The S.R. 434 Bridge is coming along and will be completed in November.

The Kewannee Trail Project will be split into two phases and will move ahead later this year.

Old Business

- Mission Statement and general housekeeping issues

Ms. Gennell made a motion to send an introduction packet to new committee members that included the following items:

- Masterplan
- BCC Resolution
- Mission Statement

Mr. Stimac seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The Mission Statement issue item was moved to the next meeting.

Committee involvement in design issues

Mr. Lichtenheld said that the committee is an advisory board, not a design related committee. Ms. Giltner responded that she felt that the taxpayers should be involved in the design because they are the owners of the trail system. She added that the mission statement reads: "...advise the BCC in developing a trails system..." Mr. Lichtenheld said that there are generally two public meetings, one of which is the Advisory Committee Meeting, at which public input was solicited. Ms. Gennell agreed and said that in her years of service to the board she had seen projects brought before the board for input. Mr. Donihi said that the Advisory Committee had changed and that the purpose had shifted. He felt that instead of soliciting input, staff now gives reports. Mr. Hill responded that he always felt that his input was wanted. Ms. Holman asked how public meetings were advertised and Mr. Lichtenheld responded that under normal circumstances newsletters, flyers and mail-outs to the adjourning property owners were sent out. Also, the committee is always informed of such meetings. Mr. Donihi proposed to investigate further and look at the charter to find the language that describes how far the design involvement should go. Ms. Gennell responded that the board was originally set up to get inside input from different trail user groups and should not get involved in construction issues. Mr. Lichtenheld said that he felt it is hard to cover all projects during the meetings which only last two hours every month. Mr. Donihi stressed again the committee needed to read the charter (attached) to find direction. At this time Mr. Cooper tabled the discussion until the next meeting.

Osceola Fish Camp Road Trailhead plans

Mr. Lichtenheld presented a layout plan of the trailhead. Ms. Holman asked if the trailhead design included bathrooms and irrigation and lighting, Mr. Lichtenheld stated these amenities are not included, and added that all of Seminole County's trails and trailheads were built for daytime use only. Ms. Giltner said she felt the layout was good, mentioning that the horse trailer parking area was in a good place at the bottom of the trailhead. She added that maybe the silt fence could be moved down a little more, that would maybe make room for one additional trailer. She also mentioned that the surface was adequate for equestrian use. Mr. Lichtenheld said that more amenities may be added later, if funding exists.

The committee agreed to skip the July meeting as in previous years. Ms. Matheny said that staff will try and coordinate the site visit instead.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 P.M.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 26, at 7 p.m. in Room 3024, County Services Building